

Meth in Indiana

- Methamphetamine laboratories processed by the Indiana State Police forensics laboratory has doubled every year since 1994, with the exception of 1999, when they more than tripled.
- The ISP clandestine laboratory seizure report for 2003 indicated that labs were discovered in all but 7 Counties.
- Locally produced meth typically is not transported far from lab sites. However, meth ingredients are often transported throughout the state in private vehicles.



What should I look for if I suspect a meth lab?

- Unusual, strong odors ("rotten egg", ether, ammonia, or other chemicals).
- Residences with windows blacked out.
- Renters who pay in cash.
- Lots of traffic at unusual times.
- Excessive trash, including potential meth ingredients.
- Unusual amounts of clear glass containers.
- Open windows in cold weather.

If you suspect a meth lab in
your community, contact
your local law enforcement
agency, or report it to the
Indiana State Police
Meth Hotline
1-800-453-4756

For additional information, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute maintains a website with information on meth:

www.in.gov/cji/drugfree/meth/

Meth Abuse in Indiana

- **What is Meth?**
- **What is its impact?**
- **What can we do?**

Provided by:
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What is Meth?

Methamphetamine is a white or brown powdered synthetic narcotic. It is a highly addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system. Meth is the fastest growing drug threat in the United States. The drug is made illegally in covert "laboratories" with over-the-counter ingredients. Meth can be snorted in powdered form, smoked, injected or ingested orally. It is produced both domestically and imported.



Meth is an especially difficult drug to combat as nearly every ingredient can be bought at your average retail store, and makeshift labs can be small enough to fit inside a suitcase.

Indiana officials report that methamphetamine labs are primarily produced in rural environments, but now are increasingly showing up in urban areas.

Although meth is used by many different types of people, there are two basic profiles of meth users reported:

- students, both high school and college age; and
- white, blue-collar workers and unemployed persons in their 20s and 30s.

Methamphetamines are sometimes referred to as Meth, Crank, Speed, Chalk, Go-Fast, Zip, Ice, Crystal, or Glass.

Some methamphetamine ingredients include:

Rubbing alcohol, cold tablets, engine starter, benzene, paint thinner, freon, drain cleaner, acetone, chloroform, camp stove fuel, starting fluid, farm fertilizers, gasoline, phenyl acetone, lye, iodine crystals, rock salt, and diet aids.

What is the impact of meth on our community?

- Explosions and fires triggered by the illegal manufacture of meth in makeshift labs.
- Environmental contamination.
- Meth-related child neglect, child and spousal abuse, sexual abuse, homicide, and property crime, especially mail and check fraud.
- Economic costs to governments, which must allocate additional resources for social services and law enforcement.
- Emergency room and other medical costs.
- Spread of infectious diseases, including HIV, AIDS and hepatitis.
- Lost worker productivity.

Reported by: Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

Some consequences of meth abuse include:

Addiction, sleeplessness, malnutrition, dental problems, mood disorders, hyperthermia (extreme rise in body temperature as high as 108 degrees), convulsions, hallucinations, violent behavior, stroke and brain damage, and skin problems.



Children

Children are often meth's most inadvertent victims. The behaviors of young children, such as frequent hand-to-mouth contact and close physical contact with their environment, increases the likelihood that they will come in contact with the toxic chemicals used to make meth. In addition, social service agencies in many areas have been overwhelmed by the increased demand to find homes for children whose parents have been arrested in connection with meth.

What are we doing to fight meth?

SEA 444 - 2005

This legislation targets Indiana's growing methamphetamine problem by making it more difficult for users to obtain the necessary ingredients to "cook" the drug. The act restricts consumer access to ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. Among other provisions, the law prohibits those under 18 from purchasing cold medicines, requires customers to provide a photo ID and signature upon purchase and limits the amount of products consumers can purchase.

HEA 1082 - 2003

In 2003, the General Assembly made a strong commitment to addressing the meth problem and passed HEA 1082. This legislation made possession of certain chemicals or precursors with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine a Class D felony. In addition, the law makes it illegal to take a child into any place being used to sell, produce or store illegal drugs, and requires convicted meth abusers to pay the costs of environmental clean-up associated with their crime.

HEA 1154 - 2003

The General Assembly also approved a measure that provides civil immunity for retail store owners and employees who contact law enforcement to report any suspicious purchases, thefts, or transactions of methamphetamine precursors. Retailers who notice an increase in sales of those products or notice the same people repeatedly buying large quantities of the products are encouraged to notify the police.

"Operation Meth Watch" is a program designed to inform retailers about meth production, distribution, and use. The program is sponsored by the Indiana State Police. To learn more, call the Indiana Meth Hotline at 1-800-453-4756.